

**SB 5745 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that there are communities in the state that exceed the national ambient air quality standards for fine particulates primarily due to wood smoke emissions from solid fuel burning devices, and that current strategies are not sufficient to reduce wood smoke emissions to levels that comply with the federal standards or adequately protect public health. The legislature finds that it is in the state's interest and to the benefit of the people of the state to evaluate additional measures to reduce wood smoke emissions and update the state wood smoke control program.

Directs the department of ecology to convene and chair a work group to study the impacts of wood smoke from solid fuel burning devices on communities in Washington and make recommendations to the legislature on practical and cost-effective opportunities to reduce public health threats from exposure to wood smoke from solid fuel burning devices. The work group must be appointed by the director of the department of ecology and include all regional air quality agencies, the state department of health, local health departments, and the hearth products industries.

Provides that, in carrying out its assignment the work group shall consider, but not be limited to: (1) Communities in the state that have elevated levels of fine particulates;

(2) The contribution of pollution from solid fuel burning devices to potential violations of federal air quality standards;

(3) Strategies used in other states, regions, or cities to reduce wood smoke pollution levels and effectiveness of these strategies;

(4) State laws, rules, tariffs, and policies that may affect the ability to reduce emissions from solid fuel burning devices or encourage the use of cleaner burning devices; and

(5) Potential financial incentives and sources of funding to change out older solid fuel burning devices with cleaner burning devices.

Declares that recommendations from the work group may include statutory or regulatory changes, incentives, and other strategies that will reduce ambient fine particulates to levels sufficient to protect public health. The recommendations must be provided to the governor and to the policy committees of the senate and house of representatives that deal with air quality issues by December 1, 2007.